

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a granular organic acid salt product, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) adding to a reaction vessel an inert carrier;
 - (b) adding to the reaction vessel a liquid organic acid which is substantially absorbed by the carrier;
 - (c) adding to the reaction vessel an inorganic base which reacts with the organic acid in an exothermic reaction to produce ~~an~~ a granular organic acid salt product; and
 - (d) allowing the organic acid salt product to dry without the use of additional sources of heat.
2. (Previously deleted) A process as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding an ingredient selected from the group comprising mineral salts, minerals, amino acids, organic acids, surfactants, flavors, colorants, and pigments, after the addition of the base.
3. (Previously amended) A process as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating the steps of adding the organic acid and adding the base.
4. (Currently amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of ~~comprised of~~ a plant material, silica gel, ~~or~~ and combinations ~~thereof~~ of the plant material and silica gel.
5. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the organic acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic, ascorbic, citric, formic, fumaric, lactic, and propionic acids.
6. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the base comprises alkali metal hydroxides.

7. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the base comprises alkaline-earth metal bases.
8. (Original) A process as defined in claim 7, wherein the alkaline-earth metal bases comprise oxides of alkaline-earth metals.
9. (Original) A process as defined in claim 8, wherein the oxides of alkaline-earth metals comprise calcium hydroxide and calcium oxide.
10. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the base comprises organic bases.
11. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of carrier to organic acid is in the range of between about 1 : 1 and about 3 : 1.
12. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the amount of base used is sufficient to react substantially completely with the amount of acid.
13. (Original) A process as defined in claim 3, wherein the steps are repeated until the weight ratio of organic salt to carrier is in the range of between about 1.5 : 1 and about 4 : 1.